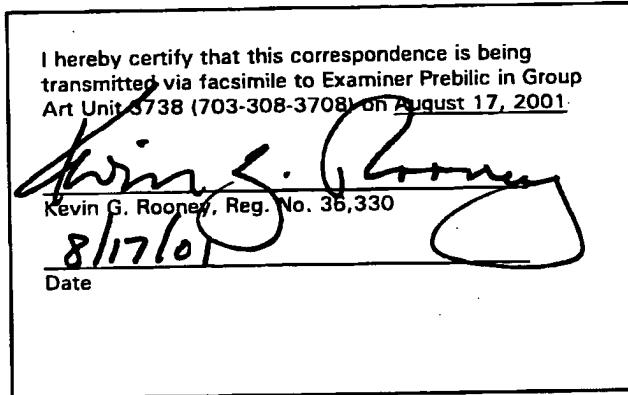


PATENT



#19

Applicants: Warren Williamson IV et al.
Serial No.: 09/306,448
Filed: May 6, 1999
Art Unit: 3738
Examiner: P. Prebilic
Title: MEANS AND METHOD OF REPLACING A HEART VALVE
IN A MINIMALLY INVASIVE MANNER
Atty Docket: CVT-02

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

August 17, 2001

PRELIMINARY RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Following up on the Preliminary Amendment filed July 25, 2001,

Applicants submit herewith a copy of the recorded Assignment for parent Application Serial No. 08/606,343, filed February 23, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,716,370) which was recorded on October 20, 1998 at Reel 9516, Frame 0825. In view of the common ownership between the present application and the '370

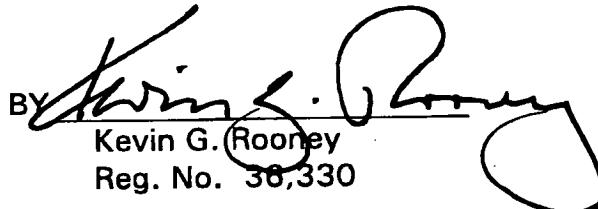
patent, Applicants submit that the '370 patent is no longer a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103. See § 103(c).

If there is any additional matter that may be resolved by telephone or fax, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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